
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

September 21, 2013

TEXT: *1 Kings 16:29-17:3 KJV*

And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years. (30) And ***Ahab*** the son of Omri ***did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.*** (31) And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. (32) And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. (33) And Ahab made a grove; and ***Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.*** (34) In his days did Hiel the Bethelite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, ***according to the word of the LORD,*** which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun. **(17:1)** And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. (2) ***And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying***, (3) ***Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.***

INTRO: *Elijah – A Man Like Us!*

About Elijah

He proclaims a drought – In the Name of The LORD
He is sent to Cherith Brook and God provides his needs –
He is sent to Zar-e-phath and is cared for by a widow and her son
God Miraculously provides flour and oil for bread –
The son dies and Elijah prays for his life –
God sends him to proclaim the rain is coming –

1 Kings 18:1 KJV

And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.

I. *He Was Just Like Us*

James 5:17-18 KJV

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and ***he prayed*** earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. (18) ***And he prayed again***, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

He was a man
He had the same passions we have
He dealt with the same struggles we have – even depression
He faced challenges like just you and I face
He lived among little-minded, stubborn, and rebellious people
He prayed and He prayed again

II. *How Long Will You Pause?*

1 Kings 18:1-2 KJV

And it came to pass after many days, that ***the word of the LORD came to Elijah*** in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth. (2) ***And Elijah went*** to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.

1 Kings 18:17-25 KJV

And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, ***Art thou he that troubleth Israel?*** (18) And he answered, **I have not** troubled Israel; **but thou**, and thy father's house, in that ***ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim***. (19) Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount

Carmel, and the ***prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty***, and the ***prophets of the groves four hundred***, which eat at Jezebel's table. (20) So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel. (21) And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, ***How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him***. ***And the people answered him not a word***. (22) Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even ***I only, remain a prophet of the LORD***; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. (23) Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: (24) And **call ye on the name of your gods**, and **I will call on the name of the LORD**: and **the God that answereth by fire, let him be God**. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken. (25) And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

If the LORD GOD did not care about people serving other gods …
Then why did HE send Elijah … OR FOR THAT MATTER
Why did HE send any of the prophets to pronounce judgment for the practice?

III. *He Goes Here … He Goes There … What Are You Doing Here?*

1 Kings 19:1-13 KJV

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. (2) Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. (3) And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. (4) But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and ***he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life;*** for I am not better than my fathers. (5) And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an

angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. (6) And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. (7) And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. (8) And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb *the mount of God*. (9) And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, ***the word of the LORD came to him***, and he said unto him, ***What doest thou here, Elijah?*** (10) And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. (11) And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but ***the LORD was not in the wind:*** and after the wind an earthquake; but ***the LORD was not in the earthquake***: (12) And after the earthquake a fire; but ***the LORD was not in the fire***: and after the fire **a still small voice**. (13) And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, **there came a voice unto him**, and said, ***What doest thou here, Elijah?***

HE IS SENT TO CHERITH BROOK AND GOD PROVIDES HIS NEEDS –
HE IS SENT TO ZAR-E-PHATH AND IS CARED FOR BY A WIDOW AND HER SON –
GOD MIRACULOUSLY PROVIDES FLOUR AND OIL FOR BREAD –
THE SON DIES AND ELIJAH PRAYS FOR HIS LIFE –
GOD SENDS HIM TO PROCLAIM THE RAIN IS COMING –

SO … WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

IV. *WHAT ARE YOU LEAVING BEHIND?*

2 Kings 2:7-15 KJV

And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan. (8) And Elijah took his mantle, and

wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground. (9) And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, ***Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.*** (10) And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. (11) And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. (12) And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. (13) ***He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him***, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; (14) ***And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters,*** and said, ***Where is the LORD God of Elijah?*** and ***when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over***. (15) And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.

I. *ELIJAH WAS JUST LIKE US*

II. *HOW LONG WILL YOU PAUSE?*

III. *WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?*

IV. *WHAT ARE YOU LEAVING BEHIND?*